



Council District Six
City of San Diego

**Councilmember Frye's
State of Linda Vista Address**

January 2009

Contact:
Council District Six
202 C St., MS 10A
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 533-6462
msauer@saniego.gov

Community Accomplishments

Bayside Community Center

It was an important year at Bayside Community Center, with the completion of a major renovation project and the successful renewed funding of the Fair Housing Program following an extensive federal audit.

I was happy to allocate \$200,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for capital improvement and various other programs at Bayside last year, along with \$81,000 in CDBG money to the expanded fair-housing program.

Through the work of paid staff and expert volunteers, Bayside investigates fair-housing complaints, conducts seminars and workshops for tenants and home owners, helps to prosecute discrimination cases, and provides other housing-related services, including advice for those facing foreclosure.

Thousands of Linda Vista residents and others from across San Diego have benefited from these services in recent years.

Bayside, which honored me in October as one of their charter group of “Champions,” has been the beneficiary of \$1.2 million in CDBG funding over the past eight years during which I have been the District 6 councilmember.

I also allocated funds to the Linda Vista Branch of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego, among grants to worthy organizations throughout District 6 and across the city.

There have been significant annual cuts in CDBG funding in recent years, and 2009 figures will decline substantially due to the economic recession. Still, allocations identified by my office last year addressed health care, small-business development, senior services, community enhancements, code-compliance issues, ADA infrastructure improvements and lead-poisoning prevention.

Joint-Use Fields

At Montgomery School, a joint-use agreement between the school board and the city is in the works. Funding for this \$950,000 project is to be split roughly in half between the Irvine Co., which is building apartment units on the old University of San Diego High School property, and the city. About \$45,000 of this money will be provided by my office.

All agreements on the Montgomery project are expected to be finalized in February, with construction expected to begin later in 2009.

The joint-use field at Kit Carson Elementary is expected to be ready for use in May. This \$780,000 project provides for approximately 2 acres of park improvements, including 1.8 acres of multi-use turf with irrigation, trees, backstops, concrete picnic tables and drinking fountain.

Funding for the field, which will be used by students during school hours and available to the community otherwise, comes from Prop. 40 funds (\$635,000), Developer Impact Fees (\$85,000), and a donation from the NFL/San Diego Chargers (\$30,000).

Code Compliance

Due to changes in requirements from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the two proactive code-compliance officers assigned to Linda Vista were shifted to enforcement in low- and moderate-income areas citywide.

These officers were paid with CDBG funds, which have diminished significantly. HUD rules now require that these officers now be part of the citywide code-compliance team focusing on low- and moderate-income areas, and not be designated specifically to Linda Vista.

However, code violations are still being vigorously enforced in Linda Vista under this new arrangement. In 2008, 79 new cases were opened in the community and 128 cases were closed (48 remained active as of Dec. 31.) In all, code-compliance officers issued 18 administrative citations along with 63 warnings; and 12 cases resulted in civil penalties.

Regarding the “Thrift Village” site at 7011 Linda Vista Road, code-compliance complaints against the former operator, Lucy Tran, resulted in criminal sanctions and a plea agreement between her and the City Attorney’s office. Ms. Tran was ordered to pay substantial fines and investigative costs and donate \$7,000 to the teen center at the Boys & Girls Club in Linda Vista, as well as clean up the site, including all trash, standing water, graffiti, weeds, etc. and fence the property. The lessee failed to comply with probationary terms requiring her to redevelop the property in a timely manner and instead chose to terminate her lease, according to the City Attorney’s office.

In September 2008, the firm SF San Diego took over the property, with a sublease expiring in 2014, and filed a “Statement of Intent” with the City Attorney’s office as required by the Municipal Code. In it, the new firm pledges to make sure the property is secured, free from graffiti, trash and weeds; it is posted to prevent trespassing.

An agent for SF San Diego, who says it has “owned and operated a number of seafood distribution companies and supermarkets for over 15 years,” will negotiate with the owner of the property over the next six months. SF San Diego says it is seeking a 20-year lease with “plans to invest significant financial resources to build a retail store.” Failing that, SF San Diego says it will sublease the property to a restaurant or other retail subtenant.

The proposed timeline to turn the property into a “productive use” is by June 2009.

Redevelopment Area

A year of proposals, propositions, historical analysis and auditing culminated in a Dec. 29, 2008 agreement between Skateworld and the City’s Redevelopment Agency. It provides that roller-rink operator Gary Stang will continue as the “master lessee” through June 2009 in return for his signature on a “lease-termination agreement,” releasing “all right, title and interest in the Skateworld site”

City Council members joined me in expressing their hope that Skateworld might continue to operate in the historic location along Linda Vista Road.

In fall 2008, the Linda Vista Redevelopment Housing Enhancement Loan Program was revamped. Created by the city’s Redevelopment Agency, the program is designed to increase, improve and preserve the supply of low- and moderate-income housing.

Financial assistance is provided to eligible owner-occupants of residential properties built before 1980 and located within the Linda Vista Community Planning Area.

The program, which is funded by the housing set-aside tax increment generated by the redevelopment-project area, allows low-income homeowners to make certain interior and exterior improvements to their dwellings. Those who qualify receive a 10-year loan of up to \$20,000, at 3-percent interest; the loan and interest are forgiven entirely if the owner remains in the home for that period and satisfies other conditions of the loan.

The 2008 upgrade of the program, administered by the San Diego Housing Commission, makes it easier for homeowners to qualify. For more information, contact Lyle Knudson at: 619-578-7521.

Linda Vista Multicultural Fair & Parade

The 2008 fair was a great success and has become a mainstay in the community's calendar each spring. It seems to grow bigger each year.

In conjunction with Bayside Community Center, I once again sponsored the fair's Housing Tent, a one-stop shop where residents learned about a multitude of community services, including: the Safe Homes Program; the Neighborhood Code Compliance Department; the City Attorney's Code Enforcement Unit; the Environmental Services Department; the Housing Commission; the Fair Housing Counsel; and Bayside's Housing Counseling program.

Many vendors and participants joined in helping familiarize community members with ways to secure affordable housing in these difficult financial times.

Community Outreach

The fourth Friday of each month I meet with members of the community at Bayside Community Center. Anyone wishing to schedule an appointment can contact my office at: 619-236-6616. In addition, we publish our Frye Lights newsletter each month with stories and photos about events and happenings within the 6th Council District. My community representatives distribute Frye Lights at community meetings; it is also available online at: www.sandiego.gov/cd6. You may sign up on the Web site to receive a link to the newsletter each month.

Parking and Traffic Work (Linda Vista)

.

- **Parking:**
 - Installed red curb for visibility on Hyatt Street at the intersection with North Judson Street
 - Installed red curb adjacent to the fire hydrant at the intersection of Coolidge Street and Quinn Court
 - Installed red curb on the west side of Naples Place (named alley) between Buenos Avenue and Dorcas Street
 - Installed red curb for visibility at the intersection of Goshen Street and the alley south of Mildred Street
- **School area improvements:**

Linda Vista Elementary School

- Extended the length of the school bus loading zone at 2772 Ulric Street
- Installed additional school warning signs and upgraded the existing school warning signs to fluorescent yellow/green signs on Ulric Street, Osler Street and Comstock Street
- Changed the existing yellow school crosswalk to a ladder crosswalk on Ulric Street
- Installed additional school warning signs and upgraded the existing school warning signs to fluorescent yellow/green signs on the 7300 block of Linda Vista Road

Carson Elementary School

- Modified the effective hours of the passenger loading zone at 6905 Kramer Street

Chesterton Elementary School

- Changed the existing yellow school crosswalk to a ladder crosswalk on Daniel Avenue at Daniel Court

Montgomery Middle School

- Upgraded the existing school warning signs to fluorescent yellow/green signs on Fulton Street, Ulric Street, East Jewett Street, Comstock Street, Eastman Street and Lanston Street

• **Signs and markings:**

- Painted crosswalks at signal at Linda Vista Road at Kramer Street
- Installed U-Turn restriction for southbound left turns at West Morena Boulevard at Buenos Avenue
- Realigned striping on Morena Boulevard at Linda Vista Road at Morena Boulevard
- Corrected improper lane designation signing at Friars Road and Napa Street
- Removed lane drop signing for westbound at Linda Vista Road at Morena Boulevard
- Restriped lanes at merge for southbound and westbound traffic at Linda Vista Road at Morena Boulevard

Traffic Signal Operations:

- Traffic signal retiming:
 - Adjusted timing to improve traffic flow in AM peak at Linda Vista Road at Kramer Street
 - Adjusted yellow clearance time to City standards at Linda Vista Road at Genesee Avenue
 - Adjusted AM coordination timing to improve progression and flow at Ashford Street at Mesa College Drive
 - Created new timing for signal modification project at Linda Vista Road at Morena Boulevard
 - Updated yellow times, pedestrian crossing times to meet current City Standards

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

Linda Vista Civic Association

Place: Baha'i Center
6545 Alcala Knolls Drive
When: 3rd Thursday/Month
Time: 6:30 pm

Linda Vista Community Planning Committee

Place: Linda Vista Branch Library
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Monday/Month
Time: 6:00 pm

Linda Vista Collaborative

Place: Bayside Community Center
2202 Comstock Street
When: 3rd Wednesday/Month
Time: 6:00 pm

Linda Vista Park Recreation Council

Place: Linda Vista Recreation Center
2160 Ulric Street
When: 2nd Tuesday/Month
Time: 6:00 pm

Kearny Mesa Park Recreation Council

Place: Kearny Mesa Recreation Center
1370 Armstrong Street
When: 4th Wednesday/Month
Time 6:30 pm

Linda Vista Maintenance Assessment District

Place: Friars Village Clubhouse
1190 Camino Copete
When: 3rd Tuesday/Month
Time: 8:30 am

Linda Vista Code Compliance Committee

Place: Linda Vista Branch Library
2160 Ulric Street
When: 4th Tuesday/Month
Time: 5:00 pm

North Bay Project Area Committee

Place: County Health Services Complex
3851 Rosecrans Street - San Diego Room

When: 1st Wednesday/Quarterly

Time: 7:30 am

City Accomplishments

Lead Paint Ordinance

On March 11, 2008, the City Council voted to support a new ordinance that will help prevent, identify and remedy lead hazards in housing before children are poisoned. This ordinance was the result of my formation of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Citizen's Advisory Committee, that forwarded recommendations to the Land Use and Housing Committee of the City Council. The ordinance requires use of lead-safe work practices to ensure that children are protected from the dangers of lead-based paint and dust. Call the Lead Safe Neighborhoods Program at (858) 694-7000 with any questions or to report a possible lead hazard. This includes pre-1979 buildings with cracking, peeling and chalking paint, and people unsafely disturbing paint on pre-1979 buildings. You can also contact the Environmental Health Coalition at: www.environmentalhealth.org.

General Plan

A comprehensive update to the City of San Diego's General Plan was unanimously adopted by the City Council on March 10, 2008. The new General Plan sets out a long-range vision and comprehensive policy framework for how the City should plan for projected growth and development, provide public services, and maintain the qualities which define San Diego over the next 20 to 30 years. The Planning Commission is scheduled to hold a hearing on the draft General Plan Action Plan in February 2009.

Bi-Monthly Water and Sewer Billing

On March 1, 2008, the City of San Diego Water and Metropolitan Wastewater Departments began the process of switching water/sewer/storm drain customers to a bi-monthly billing cycle. This switch impacted all single-family domestic customers, and some multi-family, commercial and industrial customers. In 2003, the Water Department began sending monthly bills, with every other bill based on an estimate of water usage. Now, the bill customers receive every two months is based on actual usage, not estimates as in the past. One constituent named Andy Manzi played a large role in calling this discrepancy to our attention. We very much appreciated his hard work and astute suggestions. Another benefit to bi-monthly billing is the savings for the Water and Metropolitan Wastewater Departments (for printing and mailing) which are expected to exceed \$500,000 annually. For questions about your bills, call the Water Department at (619) 515-3500.

Mandatory Recycling Ordinance

Until recently, San Diego was one of the only cities in the county not requiring mandatory recycling by residents and businesses. In 2005, I had made a motion that was supported by the full City Council to direct the former City Manager to provide an update on when the Mandatory Recycling program would be docketed for Council. Unfortunately, nothing was brought forward until 2007, when the City Attorney released a proposed ordinance to require mandatory recycling throughout the City, including condominium and apartment complexes, and businesses where recycling is often unavailable. I held a meeting of the Natural Resources and Culture Committee to review the proposal, which recommended that the ordinance move forward to the full City Council for approval. As of February 18, 2008, certain apartment and condominium complexes, businesses and special events in San Diego are required to provide recycling programs to their tenants, employees and participants. The Mandatory Recycling Ordinance aims to reduce the amount of waste entering local landfills in order to lengthen the life of the Miramar Landfill, meet California recycling mandates and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. If you would like any additional information about recycling, please call the Environmental Services Department at (858) 694-7000.

Amendments to the City's Emergency Water Regulations

On July 28, 2008, the Mayor and City Council declared that San Diego is in a Stage 1 Water Emergency. San Diegans are now officially requested to voluntarily save water. If the City goes to a Stage 2 Water Alert, there may be mandatory water conservation. In the current Stage 1 Water Watch, San Diegans are asked to voluntarily reduce their indoor and outdoor usage. A complete list of the voluntary actions being requested are laid out in the Municipal Code regarding Emergency Water Regulations, which the City Council updated on November 10, 2008. These changes were made in order to improve the City's demand response program in the event of a water supply shortage. For more information check the Water Department's website at:
www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/ordinance.shtml

Drought Model Ordinance

In 2006, the City of San Diego applied to the office of Emergency Services for a flood mitigation assistance planning grant. The City was awarded \$50,000 in grant funds and was provided a list of 23 properties within San Diego which were designated as repetitive loss (RL) properties by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The City hosted workshops which provided an opportunity for residents to learn about the City's participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs, and to voice their concerns of potential flooding issues throughout the city. One of the community meetings was held in the Mission Valley Community, which has flooding issues due to its proximity to the San Diego River. The City completed its first flood mitigation plan and got approval from FEMA on June 17, 2008. Now that the plan has been approved by the City Council, the City will be eligible to receive additional grant funds from FEMA to implement the mitigation strategies proposed in the Flood Mitigation Plan.

Pension Reform Compromise

Earlier this year I worked cooperatively with Mayor Sanders, Council President Peters and the City's unions to draft a new pension plan for new city employees that will save the city millions of dollars while still remaining competitive in attracting qualified employees to work for San Diego.

Redevelopment Agency Repayment to General Fund

For years I have called for the city's Redevelopment Agency, and specifically the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC), the entity responsible for redeveloping the downtown area, to begin repayment of funds loaned to it by the city totaling over \$100 million. During last year's budget discussions, the mayor agreed with me and beginning with this year's budget, the Redevelopment Agency will pay the city \$11.3 million to fund the annual debt service on PETCO Park.

Council Governance

Over the past few months, I have reached out to many of you in the community to hear your ideas and suggestions as to how you think the City Council can be better run to serve you. After many community meetings and public hearings, I was able to draft a report on your recommendations. Some of the suggestions include:

- More evening meetings of the City Council
- More meetings in the communities- away from City Hall
- Requiring the Mayor to attend public meetings and listen to members of the public speak
- Expand access to the City Council Docket
- Enhance Council Oversight of Independent City Agencies (SEDC, CCDC)

I worked closely with Councilmember DeMaio and the rest of the City Council to bring these items forward for discussion. In December, the City Council voted to have a full discussion of these proposed reforms at the City Council's Rules Committee in early 2009. You can view a copy of the final report at:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd6/pdf/memorandum/081113.1.pdf>

Opposed Pay Raises

I opposed pay raises to employees during the last round of budget hearings. The proposed raises, during these difficult economic times for the city, were not based on any new revenue source that would have provided the needed funding. I spoke out against such a practice, which unfortunately has been the way the city has done business in recent years.

Council Leadership Selection Process

When the voters of San Diego elected four new councilmembers into office this past November, they were expecting new leadership on the City Council. However, with only a few weeks remaining until the old councilmembers left office, there was a push by outgoing councilmembers to choose the leadership (Council President and President Pro-Tem) for the new City Council. I believe this act blatantly ignored the wishes of thousands of voters across the city, and was entirely inappropriate. I worked closely with new and old councilmembers to successfully put a stop to this effort.

SEDC Investigation

For months, I believed there was inappropriate behavior taking place at the South Eastern Development Corporation. After an investigation by the *Voice of San Diego* confirmed my suspicions, we found that the committee engaged in inappropriate land deals with developers, under the direction of out-of-control president, while also giving herself raises with taxpayer dollars. I worked with the mayor and other councilmembers to take swift action. The board is now under new leadership and is in the process of reforming its business practices.

Auditing Inefficiencies in the City

As we have gone about reforming the way our city deals with how to audit itself, I have been able to ensure that the city looks inward to correct any inefficiencies in our internal controls and auditing system. Making sure our city auditor is free from management interference, that the city council Audit Committee is free from management influence, and that our city auditor has a sufficient number of employees are all crucial aspects of having auditor independence. I will continue to be vigilant about this by working cooperatively with the city auditor and the city's Audit Committee, as I believe it is a vital function that can help guarantee the fiscal health of our city in future years.

Whistleblower Hotline

With the passage of Prop C and by working closely with the city's Audit Committee I was able to get the city's Whistleblower Hotline under the control of the city auditor, instead of the Mayor's office. Having the Mayor's office run it was an inherent conflict of interest because all employees work for him, making the hotline useless and ineffective. Having the city auditor control it will give employees a safer place to report instances of corruption, waste or inappropriate behavior when they see it in city departments. I will continue to work closely with the city auditor to ensure the hotline is run effectively and independently.

Councilmember Frye serves on the following City Council Committees:

Natural Resources & Culture (chair)

Rules, Open Government, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Useful Information

For more information about the City Council's weekly agenda visit the city website at <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil>

The contact information for the Mayor and the City Council is provided below for your convenience:

Mayor Jerry Sanders

Phone: (619) 236-6330

Fax: (619) 236-7228

Email: JerrySanders@sandiego.gov

District 1

Councilmember Sherri Lightner

Phone: (619) 236-6611

Fax: (619) 236-6999

Email: SherriLightner@sandiego.gov

District 2

Councilmember Kevin Faulconer

Phone: (619) 236-6622

Fax: (619) 236-6996

Email: KevinFaulconer@sandiego.gov

District 3

Councilmember Todd Gloria

Phone: (619) 236-6633

Fax: (619) 595-1481

Email: ToddGloria@sandiego.gov

District 4

Councilmember Anthony Young

Phone: (619) 236-6644

Fax: (619) 236-7273

Email: AnthonyYoung@sandiego.gov

District 5

Councilmember Carl DeMaio

Phone: (619) 236-6655

Fax: (619) 238-0915

Email: CarlDeMaio@sandiego.gov

District 6

Councilmember Donna Frye

Phone: (619) 236-6616

Fax: (619) 236-7329

Email: DonnaFrye@sandiego.gov

District 7

Councilmember Marti Emerald

Phone: (619) 236-6677

Fax: (619) 238-1360

Email: MartiEmerald@sandiego.gov

District 8

Councilmember Ben Hueso

Phone: (619) 236-6688

Fax: (619) 231-7918

Email: BenHueso@sandiego.gov

Councilmember Frye's Linda Vista Representative

Mark Sauer

(619) 533-6462

msauer@sandiego.gov